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the Jews still use them in some countries for the purpose of circumcision. This might account for the rude mode of construction; it may be conventional and archaic, perhaps prescribed by the ritual of Druidism. However, in this instance, the number found would appear to negative the supposition. They were probably intended for daily use, and the moss would serve to steady the hand and prevent its slipping."

Rev. Joseph A. Galbraith read a communication on the Apsidal Motion of a freely suspended Pendulum.

Sir William Rowan Hamilton entered into some explanatory details respecting the nature and properties of that ACONIC FUNCTION of six vectors, of which he had spoken in a recent communication with reference to a certain generalization or extension of Pascal's theorem, conducting to a relation between ten points on a surface of the second order.

In the Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy for July 20, 1846, it was remarked by Sir W. Rowan Hamilton, that the theorem of Pascal might, in the calculus of quaternions, be expressed by the following general equation of cones of the second degree:

$$S \cdot \beta \beta' \beta'' = 0,$$

where

$$\beta = V\,(V \cdot a a^{I} \cdot V \cdot a^{III} a^{IV}),$$
$$\beta' = V\,(V \cdot a^{I} a^{II} \cdot V \cdot a^{IV} a^{V}),$$
$$\beta'' = V\,(V \cdot a^{II} a^{III} \cdot V \cdot a^{V} a);$$

$a, a^{I}, a^{II}, a^{III}, a^{IV}, a^{V}$ being any six homoconic vectors, and the letters S and V being the characteristics of the operations of taking respectively the scalar and vector parts of a quaternion. Now it is precisely *that function* of six vectors $a \ldots a^{V}$, which was thus denoted in that communication of 1846, by $S.\beta\beta'\beta''$, to which it has since appeared to Sir W. Rowan Hamilton